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CASE 4-31158A



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF  
SHAH ET AL.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/EP 00/09455

FILED: 27 SEPTEMBER 2000 ✓

U.S. APPLICATION NO: 10/089,265

35 USC §371 DATE: 27 MARCH 2002 ✓

FOR: ORAL CONTROLLED RELEASE FORMULATIONS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants believe this paper is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, and so under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3) no fees are required. If a fee is deemed to be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants wish to call the Examiner's attention to the references cited on the attached form(s) PTO-1449. Since a copy of the asterisked references accompanied the International Search Report, copies of only the remaining references are enclosed. However, a copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

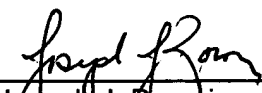
The foreign documents listed in the table below are not in English, but applicants are providing what they believe to be an English language equivalent or abstract:

<b>For ign Application</b>	<b>English Equivalent or Abstract</b>
<b>EP 408 496 A2</b>	<b>Abstract</b>
<b>WO 98/56359</b>	<b>Abstract</b>
<b>EP 348 808 B1</b>	<b>Abstract</b>

The Examiner is requested to consider the foregoing information in relation to this application and indicate that each reference was considered by returning a copy of the initialed PTO 1449 form(s).

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
Patent and Trademark Dept.  
564 Morris Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901-1027  
(908) 522-6921

  
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Joseph J. Boroyian  
Agent for Applicants  
Reg. No. 26,631

JJB/pk

Date: July 23, 2002

Encls.: Copy of completed PTO-1449 form  
Copies of all references not listed on  
the International Search Report  
Copy of International Search Report  
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